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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

**Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme**

### Annual report of the World Food Programme for 2009

#### Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the annual report of the World Food Programme for 2009, as approved by the Board of the World Food Programme in its decision 2010/EB.1/2, which is also attached.

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\* See E/2010/1.



**Decision 2010/EB.1/2 of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme  
adopted by the Board at its first regular session of 2010 (8-11 February 2010)**

**Annual report for 2009 to the Economic and Social Council and  
the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations**

The Board approved the annual report for 2009 to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (WFP/EB.1/2010/4/Rev.1). In accordance with its decision 2004/EB.A/11, the Board requested that the annual report be forwarded to the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council, along with the Board's decisions and recommendations for 2009 and the present decision.

*8 February 2010*

**Annual report of the World Food Programme for 2009 to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, including implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the triennial comprehensive policy review**

*Summary*

The World Food Programme (WFP) played a central role in United Nations system-wide efforts to increase coherence and support country-led efforts to address the continuing food crisis, the economic recession, conflict, severe weather and other shocks affecting the world's most vulnerable populations. These efforts were especially challenging at a time when the number of hungry and malnourished people exceeded 1 billion for the first time. In the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and in line with its 2008-2013 strategic plan, which was an extension of its 2008-2011 plan, WFP enhanced its partnerships at the national and global levels in order to be more effective as part of the United Nations system, to attain the Millennium Development Goals and to respond to humanitarian needs. In spite of the financial and economic crisis, WFP mobilized significant resources, including through common funds.

WFP continued to use its contributions to provide food assistance to those most in need, purchasing food locally and using innovative tools to improve nutrition, delivery and procurement at the country level. The pilot programme Purchase for Progress served as a means to test innovative procurement practices and develop new interventions to support smallholder farmers in a number of developing countries. The increasing use of vouchers and cash transfers similarly facilitated a shift in the activities of WFP towards more flexible provision of food assistance. WFP has begun to give greater attention to country- and region-led strategies with its support for the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme through the provision of expertise and alignment with WFP strategies. Through enhanced capacity-building and hand-over strategies, WFP is increasing its emphasis on finding long-term solutions to the challenges of hunger.

WFP worked with other members of the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis in unprecedented inter-agency collaboration for food security. This work provided political momentum for increasing the level of investment in measures to achieve food security and nutrition in order to eradicate hunger. Ultimately, the work led to the commitment of \$20 billion for food security at the Group of Eight Summit, held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009, and to the transformation of the Committee on World Food Security into an inclusive intergovernmental body. The engagement of WFP in these processes is in line with the principles adopted at the World Summit on Food Security, held in Rome from 16 to 18 November 2009, as they concern coherent, country-led approaches.

Following the successful implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, WFP became the first United Nations agency to launch an SAP (Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing) software system that is compliant with those standards, called WINGS II, which enables more accurate and detailed tracking of financial and human resources across WFP. An internal review of processes and procedures used in the approval of new programmes and budget revisions, which had been undertaken in the context of the financial framework review, led to improved prioritization and greater consistency in the application of guidelines, as well as harmonization of processes at the country, regional and global levels. With a view to enhancing accountability, the number of WFP staff required to submit financial disclosure statements increased from 6 to more than 400, with emphasis on staff having significant authority in the procurement process.

As the financial and economic crisis exacerbated the impact of the food crisis in 2009, WFP stepped up collaborative efforts to assist people in urgent need. In coordination with other humanitarian actors, WFP responded to emergencies within the framework of the cluster system, continuing to lead the logistics cluster and co-lead the telecommunications cluster at the global level, and lead or co-lead food-sector clusters at the country level. WFP also participated in clusters for health, nutrition and other sectors.

WFP led or was a participant in a number of joint crisis initiatives adopted by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination at its first regular session of 2009, held in Paris on 4 and 5 April 2009, and provided monitoring and analysis through the Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System. The Executive Director of WFP chaired the High-Level Committee on Management, held in Rome from 9 to 13 November 2009, which worked to harmonize United Nations business practices and improve staff safety and security systems. As a member of the United Nations Development Group, WFP continued to collaborate in strengthening country-level coordination and delivery through the Resident Coordinator system. This work built on the achievements of the “Delivering as One” initiative by ensuring that the United Nations Development Assistance Framework is in line with national priorities, plans and principles, and is designed to support Governments in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

## **I. Contributing to the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system**

### **A. Funding for operational activities**

1. Hunger in the world reached a historic high in 2009, with more than 1 billion people being undernourished. The combined effects of the food, fuel and financial crises exacerbated the vulnerability caused by disasters, conflict and poverty. As a result, WFP extended food and nutrition assistance, including safety nets, such as feeding programmes for schoolchildren, to 108 million beneficiaries in 74 countries.

2. The total funding projection of WFP for 2009 was \$3.9 billion, which was \$1 billion more than had been received in the years up to 2008. As growing needs outpaced traditional donor funding, greater attention was given to mobilizing new donors and embedding WFP country programmes more fully under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), Poverty Reduction Strategy processes and national development plans.

3. As of 7 December 2009, WFP had received \$3.6 billion from 75 donors. Brazil, Germany, Japan, Qatar, the Russian Federation and Spain made their highest contributions ever to WFP. Australia, Belgium, Canada, the European Commission, India, Kenya, the United States of America and private donors also stepped up or sustained funding in 2009. Host Governments in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Egypt, Madagascar, Malawi and Pakistan supported WFP operations in their countries. Kazakhstan, Oman and Ukraine contributed to WFP for the first time.

4. Donors directed approximately 90 per cent of their contributions to specific projects; the remaining 10 per cent was made up of multilateral contributions which were allocated by the Strategic Resource Allocation Committee. Early, predictable and flexible multilateral funding enabled WFP to prioritize its resources according to the most urgent needs and to plan effectively in addressing the root causes of hunger. Major multilateral donors included Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden. New multi-year partnerships were signed with Australia, Canada and Luxembourg in 2009.

5. Allocations received through multi-donor funding totalled \$155 million at the beginning of December 2009 — the fifth largest source of income for WFP. Of this funding, 82 per cent came from humanitarian funding mechanisms, such as the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and common humanitarian funds for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. Contributions from pooled funds were critical for many operations, particularly underfunded emergencies and special operations, including support for the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, which is managed by WFP on behalf of the United Nations. These contributions enabled WFP and its partners to continue supplying critical food assistance in operations where support from traditional sources was not sufficient.

6. WFP received 36 per cent of overall disbursements (\$110 million by December 2009). In addition, WFP engaged in discussions to formulate a global letter of understanding and a performance and accountability framework, while emphasizing the importance of avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy.

7. During the reporting period, new funding channels were opened with donors from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and thematic and multi-donor trust funds. These included the Global Food Crisis Response Programme of the World Bank, the Spain Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund, the Food Facility of the European Union and the Food Security Thematic Programme managed by EuropeAid. Changes in guidelines facilitating access to other funds, such as the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, were welcome developments during the year. A broader funding base is increasingly important to WFP and its partners in meeting the growing demands for food assistance.

8. In 2009, 16 appeals for assistance were made under the Consolidated Appeals Process, along with 7 flash appeals and 6 other appeals. The three largest appeals were for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and the Sudan, followed by the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. WFP remained the largest appeals agency, satisfying 90 per cent of its requirements in 2009 through the Consolidated Appeals Process. Total requirements amounted to \$9.8 billion, of which the needs of WFP accounted for \$3.7 billion, or 38 per cent of the total.

9. WFP also benefited from favourable purchasing arrangements in a number of countries. For example, the Government of India provided WFP with cereals at prices below the poverty line — approximately 33 per cent of the market prices for wheat and rice. WFP also procured wheat and rice from the Food Corporation of India, a government corporation, at subsidized prices. The Government of India allocates approximately 40,000 metric tons of wheat and 7,500 metric tons of rice to WFP each year. WFP uses the wheat to procure blended food from manufacturers on a barter basis.

10. By December 2009, support from private sector fund-raising had surpassed the annual goal of \$80 million. However, the fund-raising expectations of WFP had been tempered by the economic climate in 2009. Despite the economic slowdown, WFP signed a long-term partnership with LG Electronics, the first Asian multinational to support WFP by contributing to climate-related hunger programmes in the Horn of Africa.

11. Private partnerships continued to be a major driver of the nutrition-improvement strategy of WFP, bringing the expertise of the private sector to the Nutrition Unit of WFP. In 2009, agreements were made for the recruitment of at least six nutritionists in country offices of WFP in 2010, with support from the private sector. Specialists from Royal DSM N.V., a life sciences and materials sciences company, worked in Egypt and Kenya to tackle issues related to the fortification of home food and to assess local capacity for food production. Project Laser Beam, an innovative alliance of food companies, was launched in September to reduce malnutrition in Bangladesh and Indonesia by 2014; that project combines the know-how of WFP with the private sector's expertise in nutrition, food security and hygiene. WFP also initiated corporate partnerships with the H. J. Heinz Company and Kraft Foods, Inc., and expanded its relationship with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition through this initiative.

## **B. Harmonization, joint initiatives and “Delivering as One”**

12. The adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 63/311 on system-wide coherence encouraged cooperation among United Nations agencies. WFP welcomed the creation of a new gender entity, combining four existing bodies. The call for an independent system-wide evaluation mechanism to assess efficiency, effectiveness and performance was appreciated as a means to enhance transparency. Recognition of the need for increased cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions was also welcome.

13. The Executive Director of WFP participated in the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination convened by the Secretary-General. As Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management, she took the lead in initiatives to strengthen coordination of administrative and management issues across the United Nations. In 2009, the High-Level Committee on Management focused on harmonization of business practices and staff security.

14. WFP also further built on best practices in financial management through the implementation in July of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the launch of an IPSAS-compliant Systems, Applications and Products in Data Processing (SAP) software system, called WINGS II. WFP was the first United Nations agency to implement those standards in compliance with the decision of the High-Level Committee on Management adopted by all the governing bodies of the United Nations system, including the General Assembly and the WFP Executive Board. The expansion of the number of WFP staff required to make financial disclosure statements from 6 to more than 400, with emphasis on staff having significant authority in the procurement process, is also aimed at improving financial transparency and accountability. The newly created Resource Management and Accountability Department, which consolidated all inward and outward resource flows, facilitated greater financial control. The department includes the Performance and Accountability Management Division in order to ensure that effectiveness and evaluation are taken into account in resource decisions.

15. In the area of business practices, the High-Level Committee on Management identified joint projects to enhance cooperation among United Nations agencies, and raised nearly \$6 million for these activities. The High-Level Committee on Management also oversaw the Steering Committee on Staff Safety and Security, which recommended that the United Nations refocus efforts in security risk management on remaining operational in challenging security environments. WFP promoted reforms in the United Nations security system, particularly related to the working conditions of national staff. The importance of these efforts was highlighted by the killing of five WFP staff members in Pakistan and another five United Nations workers in Afghanistan in late 2009.

16. The United Nations joint crisis initiatives were a principal focus of the High-Level Committee on Programmes in 2009. The initiatives developed by the High-Level Committee on Programmes and approved by CEB in April 2009 were aimed at mobilizing the United Nations system to address the impacts of the recent global financial, economic and social crises. WFP leads two of the nine joint crisis initiatives: (a) the food security initiative, in cooperation with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis; and (b) the humanitarian action, security

and social stability initiative. WFP also participated as a cooperating agency in four other joint crisis initiatives: (a) additional financing for the most vulnerable; (b) green economy; (c) social protection; and (d) monitoring and analysis.

17. The food security joint crisis initiative was closely linked to the work of the High-Level Task Force in order to ensure coordination in the follow-up of agencies to the Group of Eight commitments and Group of Twenty outcomes. The second initiative led by WFP focused on emergency action to protect lives and livelihoods, meet food and humanitarian needs, protect displaced people and enhance security and social stability. This initiative included advocating life-saving assistance programmes, highlighting the need for reliable funding of consolidated appeals and ensuring access for humanitarian deliveries and the safety of humanitarian workers worldwide. Ensuring that there are naval escorts for protecting WFP shipments to Somalia, which were threatened by piracy, has been another important initiative in conjunction with the International Maritime Organization.

18. WFP continued its participation in the United Nations Development Group and in its working groups during 2009, including the Working Group on Programming Issues and Millennium Development Goal task forces. In response to requests from United Nations country teams, WGPI pared down the guidelines of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and produced formats for simplified reporting while focusing on engagement in national strategies. The country office business operations group revised common services training materials to encourage coordination at the country level. Common procurement guidelines were prepared under the leadership of WFP and adopted by the United Nations Development Group in the last quarter of 2009.

19. The United Nations Development Group working groups, the Advisory Group and the full Development Group provided countries with support in piloting the “Delivering as One” initiative and prepared a toolkit on change management in response to requests from countries. Under the leadership of WFP as a member of the Advisory Committee, the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers was adopted at the country level. Resident Coordinators in pilot countries Delivering as One were consulted to measure progress and highlight issues requiring the attention of UNDG.

20. Through consultations in those pilot countries and in the General Assembly, United Nations country offices were encouraged to lead their own evaluation exercises. The United Nations evaluation group is supporting this initiative by participating in meetings in pilot countries; providing framework terms of reference for evaluation; and facilitating the quality assurance of country-led evaluations.

21. Enhancement of the Resident Coordinator system continued in 2009 with the participation of WFP in working groups on strengthening the Resident Coordinator selection process. In line with the objectives of the Resident Coordinator talent management implementation plan, standard operating procedures were introduced in order to strengthen management of the Inter-Agency Advisory Panel. Guidelines on the selection and appointment of Resident Coordinators were developed to improve communications and streamline the selection process.

22. In 2009, four WFP staff members served as Resident Coordinators in Algeria, Cambodia, Myanmar and Tajikistan. One staff member was appointed, pending

government clearance, as the Resident Coordinator in Madagascar. WFP put forward six candidates for Resident Coordinator assessment centres in January 2010.

### **C. Climate change**

23. Climate change featured prominently on the United Nations agenda in 2009, culminating in the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, which was held in Copenhagen, from 7 to 18 December. WFP intensified its contacts with partner organizations in an effort to address undernutrition and lack of access to food as a result of the impacts of climate change. Support was provided for adaptation strategies and mitigation activities, including food-for-work and expanded safety net programmes, such as those for feeding schoolchildren. Ongoing projects related to land rehabilitation, reforestation, environmental management and energy, such as the introduction of energy-saving stoves, were also part of the efforts of WFP to reduce climate- and weather-related hunger.

24. Innovative tools and new partnerships facilitated a scaling-up of the vulnerability analysis of WFP to incorporate information on climate change, including a global platform for climate change information established by the World Meteorological Organization. Early warning was another area for the development of new systems. In Central America, WFP led the development of SATCAweb, a web-based disaster monitoring and forecasting tool that furnishes real-time information on climate-related disasters in that area. Another example of successful collaboration was the WFP programme in Ethiopia called Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions to More Sustainable Livelihoods through Partnerships and Land Users Solidarity, which facilitated the development and mainstreaming of a national community-based approach to reverse environmental degradation and increase long-term resilience to climate change. Since 2000, the project has reached more than 1 million people and contributed to the rehabilitation of over 300,000 hectares of degraded land.

### **D. Humanitarian reform**

25. The humanitarian reform agenda includes the cluster approach, humanitarian financing and the humanitarian coordinator System. In 2009, the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee shifted its emphasis from identifying and implementing new mechanisms to consolidating existing humanitarian reform efforts and evaluating progress. The initiative led by the Standing Committee to streamline the various United Nations financing groups and harmonize guidelines, including reporting requirements, led to improvements in implementation at the field level and reduced transaction costs. Priorities established by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in 2009 with WFP support included humanitarian financing, developing a common needs assessment and improving the humanitarian coordinator System.

26. Discussions during the year led to extending the pool of humanitarian coordinators for another three years and establishing the Humanitarian Coordination Assessment Panel to review candidates for filling positions of humanitarian coordinators. While this was a welcome development in principle, in practice the reliance on Resident Coordinators to assume the functions of humanitarian

coordinators remained prevalent. In 2009, four WFP staff members were recommended for inclusion in the pool of humanitarian coordinators. Guidance on the establishment and disestablishment of humanitarian country teams was also issued, following a review by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee working group in October 2009.

27. The Consolidated Appeals Process, the expanded CERF and the individual emergency response accounts of major humanitarian agencies supplied more coherent and predictable humanitarian financing. WFP has been the largest recipient of CERF funds to date (see paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present report for details).

28. The cluster system, which was initially intended to address gaps in humanitarian response, continued to evolve into the primary means through which the humanitarian community responds to sudden-onset emergencies. In 2009, of 27 countries with humanitarian coordinators, 24 formally implemented the cluster system. WFP continued to lead the logistics and emergency telecommunications clusters while retaining overall responsibility for the food assistance sector. WFP was also engaged in other global clusters, including those for nutrition, protection, education and early recovery.

29. The WFP-led logistics cluster responded to eight new emergencies in 2009: in Benin; Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territory; Indonesia; the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Pakistan; the Philippines; and Samoa. To strengthen preparedness and build capacity for a more effective and coordinated response, more than 200 logisticians from 30 different organizations have been trained since 2006 as partners in logistics clusters. Trained logisticians have been deployed to conduct assessments and support field operations in establishing logistics clusters in new emergencies.

30. The logistics cluster also supported communities in the transition from post-conflict and post-disaster situations to long-term recovery through the rehabilitation of infrastructure. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, the logistics cluster worked with local government and humanitarian partners to implement road rehabilitation projects in return areas.

31. The global logistics cluster support cell was established three years previously in order to provide guidance on strategy and policy, training, mobilization support and surge capacity for humanitarian projects. The core unit of the United Nations Joint Logistics Centre was integrated within the logistics cluster support cell in January 2009. Positioned within the WFP Logistics Division, the cell is composed of a group of dedicated, multi-skilled logisticians drawn from seven humanitarian organizations. It facilitated the roll-out of "service mindset training", a tool designed to identify common needs of humanitarian logisticians. In 2009, the cell, in partnership with 15 organizations, completed the "logistics operations guide", a single source for templates, operational tools, references and guidelines on logistics.

32. In June 2009, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) finalized an agreement to streamline responsibilities, unify services and consolidate the provision of security and data communications under the leadership of WFP. Since 2007, WFP has provided coordination and technical support in emergency telecommunications in all major emergencies. In 2009, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Pakistan had such emergencies. In partnership with private sector donors, WFP also delivered a comprehensive information technology

training programme on emergency preparedness and response management. During the year, 99 professionals from 20 organizations participated in the training course.

33. WFP was focal point for security telecommunications issues under the new United Nations policy on security risk management, minimum standards for operating safety and guidelines for determining acceptable risk, which had been developed by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. In that capacity, WFP advised the security management network on policies and implementation of security telecommunications standards and services.

34. WFP continued its participation in inter-agency forums concerned with transition, especially the Inter-Agency Standing Committee working group on early recovery and the United Nations Development Group/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs joint working group on transition issues. Discussions during the year included financing for transition, lessons learned in supporting early recovery, the post-conflict and post-disaster needs assessment processes and the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding. WFP contributed to work being done in these areas and participated in discussions on the direction, functions, harmonization and impact of inter-agency groups.

35. WFP also contributed to the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office, temporarily assigning a staff member to support the preparation of the Secretary-General's report. In October, WFP co-hosted a special event of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission on food and economic crises in post-conflict countries. The contribution of WFP to peacebuilding, including its ability to provide immediate and concrete peace dividends, was highlighted during the special event. In October, the organization also joined the Senior Peacebuilding Group, which had been established to advise the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support on peacebuilding issues and to ensure the engagement of the United Nations in peacebuilding.

36. The Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs served as an important forum for humanitarian agencies to discuss and develop common positions in relation to evolving situations, such as those in the Horn of Africa and Yemen, and to address critical security challenges, such as those in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

## **E. Country-led joint programming**

37. WFP participated in 88 joint programmes in 33 countries in 2009, an increase of 11 per cent over that of the previous year. Its participation in this regard was a continuation of the growing trend in joint programming among United Nations agencies. The Delivering as One initiative accounted for 35 per cent of all joint programmes. Most joint programmes took place in sub-Saharan Africa.

38. Joint programmes afforded opportunities for United Nations agencies to work more closely with national partners; for example, a joint initiative with UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the United Republic of Tanzania was aimed at assisting the Government of that country in developing a comprehensive national programme for feeding schoolchildren. In Mozambique, WFP worked with UNICEF and WHO in joint programmes on children, food security and nutrition, access to and provision of reproductive health services and strengthening the national response to HIV/AIDS. WFP provided the Ministry of Health with

technical assistance, using a new framework for the Government's basic food basket for patients undergoing antiretroviral therapy and those with tuberculosis.

39. WFP worked with United Nations partners in Liberia on a large-scale food security and nutrition programme to increase agricultural production. In Uganda, UNCT formulated a joint programme to support the Government in addressing climate change, especially in the disaster-prone Karamoja and Teso regions of the country.

40. WFP remained strongly engaged in five Delivering as One countries, namely Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, where activities are part of a common workplan and budget that involves two or more United Nations organizations and national partners.

41. In Mozambique, WFP was involved in 6 of 11 joint programmes and led the Purchase for Progress activity known as "building commodity value chains and market linkages for farmers' associations". The initiative is aimed at facilitating the direct purchase of maize and beans by institutional buyers such as WFP. FAO imported technical training and assistance and IFAD furnished credit.

42. In January 2009, the Government and UNCT in Pakistan initiated the Delivering as One programme, which included joint programmes on agriculture, rural development and poverty reduction, education, health and population, the environment and disaster risk management. WFP participated in all these programmes and co-chaired the disaster risk management theme group with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

43. Rather than developing a separate Delivering as One programme, the United Nations country team in Rwanda initiated pilot processes when preparing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, focusing on five thematic areas. WFP co-chaired the education thematic group with UNICEF and the sustainable growth and social protection thematic group with FAO, while it contributed also to the other three areas. WFP worked with UNDP and other agencies in the areas of health, population, HIV and nutrition. One example was its work with the Rwanda Women's Network, which furnished support for women who survived rape and other crimes during the genocide in 1994. Another project with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDP and other agencies focused on expanding the response to HIV in cooperation with the Government and civil society.

44. In the United Republic of Tanzania, WFP participated in six of seven joint programmes and two joint initiatives on change management and communications. UNCT advanced administrative reforms, particularly in the areas of information and communications technology (ICT) and procurement. WFP took the lead in the area of ICT, implementing a project aimed at developing a system-wide infrastructure for voice, data and video communications and a common approach to ICT, including for procurement. With UNDP and other agencies, WFP also collaborated in joint programmes on national disaster preparedness and response capacities, wealth creation, employment and economic empowerment, with the WFP inputs focusing on food and nutrition.

## **F. Common services and premises**

45. Participation in the United Nations Development Group Task Team on Common Premises in 2009 continued to centre on cooperation between security and facility teams, and funding large-scale renovation and construction projects. While WFP remained supportive of the Task Team's efforts to incorporate "green building" concepts into all common premise projects, it maintained that this approach should not add extra costs to the projects.

46. The security task force for the internal premises of WFP has benefited from inter-agency participation in the security and common premises working groups; this has led to better information-sharing and standardization of approaches. Throughout the year, WFP continued to advocate proper technical resourcing of the Task Team; in November, an architect was hired to support analysis of specific projects and develop standards and tools for country teams.

47. WFP is participating in the development of common premise proposals in Mozambique and Rwanda, both Delivering as One countries where sharing a common building is part of the Task Team's objectives. However, the financial implications of these projects have yet to be determined.

## **II. Coherence in ensuring food security**

### **A. Global food security**

48. The year 2009 was a critical time for international dialogue on food security and related governance issues. The Joint Statement on Global Food Security ("L'Aquila Food Security Initiative"), endorsed by the Group of Eight Summit, held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8 to 10 July 2009 — where \$20 billion was pledged for food security — provided an opportunity to revive international commitments to the eradication of poverty and hunger. WFP advocated a comprehensive approach to food security, ensuring that food and nutrition safety nets were recognized as important tools for tackling hunger and malnutrition.

49. The Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis was an important forum for WFP to stress the need for coordination in implementing food-related actions vital for achieving Millennium Development Goal 1 as it relates to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, promoting social and economic resilience and creating viable employment opportunities.

50. With the adoption of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security on 18 November, global leaders renewed their commitments to a coherent, country-level and comprehensive approach to food security. Critical to this approach was ensuring access to safe, adequate, nutritious and affordable food for all, especially vulnerable groups, through emergency food assistance and safety nets, such as cash vouchers and mother-and-child nutrition. The L'Aquila principles were reaffirmed and the participants in the World Summit on Food Security, which was held in Rome, from 16 to 18 November 2009, reiterated the need to strengthen global coordination and governance for food security, including through the reformed Committee on World Food Security. WFP committed itself to engage with FAO and IFAD in implementing the reform of that committee.

51. At the regional level, WFP continued its engagement with the initiative African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development, as well as the implementation process of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. This engagement was aimed at ensuring that sustainable solutions to hunger were taken into consideration in the development of policies and in programming at the country and regional levels. In this context, WFP helped the Economic Community of West African States to design an emergency food reserve system along with a regional programme to improve the access of vulnerable groups to food. In the Horn of Africa, WFP and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development agreed to improve cooperation in a number of areas, including food security and disaster risk management, through the implementation of common priorities. This will be the subject of a memorandum of understanding being developed by the two organizations. Together with the Economic Commission for Africa, WFP participated in three thematic clusters on (a) agriculture, food security and rural development; (b) peace and security; and (c) social and human development. WFP also assumed a prominent role in implementing the recommendation of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group to scale up programmes for feeding schoolchildren and fortifying micronutrients in Africa within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. Partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa was strengthened through the Purchase for Progress initiative and the framework Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa, which is aimed at increasing regional integration and improving the competitiveness of staple food markets.

## **B. Collaboration among the Rome-based agencies**

52. WFP, FAO and IFAD continued to strengthen their collaboration with a view to achieving a more comprehensive approach to food security. By the end of 2008, WFP and FAO had collaborated in 63 countries on 99 projects in the areas of agriculture, food security and joint-assessment. WFP and IFAD collaborated in 14 countries on 18 projects involving food for work, food for training and microcredit.

53. A joint paper completed in November culminated two years of effort to enhance collaboration among Rome-based agencies. It was followed by a senior staff meeting in early November, in which Rome-based agencies agreed to focus on the transition from relief to recovery and development in selected countries; alignment of early-warning information systems to enhance food security reporting; and joint advocacy during 2010 to help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

54. The Rome-based agencies also continued to strengthen their administrative collaboration. Progress was made in the procurement of goods and services, with joint tendering leading to significant savings. A joint tender on travel resulted in significant savings for the three agencies, which now use the same travel agent. The extension of the FAO remailing contract to include WFP and IFAD resulted in savings of 25 per cent for IFAD and 30 per cent for WFP. The Rome-based agencies are now establishing a common procurement team.

55. WFP and FAO jointly carried out crop and food supply assessment missions in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Madagascar, Namibia, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe. They also issued the publication entitled *State of Food Insecurity in the World: Economic Crises — Impacts and Lessons Learned*. In that report, FAO furnished analysis of food insecurity at the global level and WFP supplied information on how households in developing countries were affected by the global economic downturn.

56. The vulnerability analysis and mapping unit of WFP and the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO jointly developed a model for simulating the impact of shocks, such as extreme weather, rising prices and shifts in agricultural input prices, on household incomes and food expenditures. The first phase of the project covered three low-income, food-deficit countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan) and two in Africa (Burkina Faso and Malawi). Additional countries will be included in the second phase. The analysis provided information that can be used for planning and decision-making during the early phases of crises.

57. Through the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, WFP and FAO also collaborated in standardizing food security classification in order to identify priorities for intervention, which in 2009, involved collaboration with partners in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Tajikistan and Uganda.

58. WFP and IFAD jointly established the Weather Risk Management Facility to reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to extreme weather events through index-based insurance schemes. Projects were launched in China and Ethiopia in 2008 and 2009, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Bank. As a result of extreme weather conditions in the Horn of Africa in 2009, the project delivered \$25,000 in insurance payouts to 137 smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, which was 50 per cent of the total amount insured on estimated average future yields. The partnership of WFP with the World Bank and the Government of Ethiopia facilitated the development of a national risk-financing mechanism for droughts and floods that could trigger contingency funds of up to \$180 million over five years.

### **III. New initiatives and developing partnerships**

#### **A. Purchase for progress**

59. Launched in September 2008 with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Howard G. Buffet Foundation and the Government of Belgium, the pilot Purchase for Progress initiative tested innovative procurement practices and partnerships. With its demand for staple food, WFP acted as a catalyst for new interventions supporting smallholder farmers.

60. As of October 2009, testing of the Purchase for Progress innovative procurement practices resulted in the procurement of 25,000 metric tons of food in 11 countries where WFP operates. The food was purchased from 40 smallholder farmers' organizations, small and medium-sized traders, the warehouse receipt systems in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and the commodity exchange in Zambia. WFP and its partners also trained 9,700 smallholder farmers, 26 per cent of whom were women, and 58 warehouse operators in contracting,

quality specifications, post-harvest handling, group marketing and commercialization, agricultural production techniques and agricultural finance.

61. Some of the most innovative initiatives in 2009 were implemented in Mali, Uganda and Zambia. In Uganda, WFP supported the warehouse receipts system through which farmers could access a network of certified warehouses, adequate storage conditions and cash using a receipt system in which they received cash equivalent to 60-70 per cent of the total value of the commodities deposited. In Zambia, WFP supported farmers' organizations in meeting the standards required to access the Zambia Agricultural Commodity Exchange, a trading platform with a network of certified warehouses where farmers and traders can store commodities to sell when market conditions become more favourable. In Mali, the Purchase for Progress partner Afrique Verte International trained farmers' and women's organizations in basic marketing skills. In addition, Faso Jigi, a federation of smallholder farmers' cooperatives in Mali, won a WFP competitive tender in 2009.

## **B. Cash and vouchers**

62. The use of vouchers and cash transfers by WFP has increased in recent years, with the number of pilot programmes increasing from 9 in 2008 to 24 in 2009. Such developments reflect a shift towards providing food assistance in a more flexible manner. The use of vouchers and cash transfers also offered new opportunities to support Governments in introducing and expanding systems of social safety nets.

63. In Malawi, real-time price monitoring of the regular WFP Malawi food basket in local markets enabled WFP to adjust monthly transfer values according to price fluctuations, thereby protecting the people's purchasing power over time. Cash transfers were delivered in partnership with the Malawi Savings Bank and included savings accounts for each cash beneficiary. In Syria, WFP piloted an electronic food voucher project, the first of its kind to use mobile telephone technology, to support 1,000 Iraqi refugee households with limited income-generating opportunities. Each family member received one voucher worth \$22 every two months. After each transaction, families receive an updated balance by text message on their mobile telephones.

## **C. Capacity-building**

64. In 2009, WFP worked more closely with national counterparts, particularly through consultation processes at the country level. In addition, WFP furnished technical support for national strategies and regional initiatives to combat chronic hunger and undernutrition in India, Iraq, Mauritania, Rwanda and Timor-Leste. In Egypt, the support of WFP for the national food-based social safety net programme led to a reform of the food subsidy system. In Ghana, the newly established national school meals secretariat collaborated with WFP to implement a national programme for feeding schoolchildren home-grown food in order to increase school enrolment and attendance, and increase agricultural productivity. In El Salvador, the WFP programme for feeding schoolchildren was handed over to the Government, ending a 10-year process to develop its capacity.

## **D. Reach**

65. The Reach Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition partnership was jointly established by WFP, FAO, UNICEF and WHO. This global partnership is committed to meeting the nutrition needs of the world's most vulnerable stakeholders, women and children, through evidenced-based analysis and innovative programming. WFP served as the host agency for the partnership and furnished essential support.

66. The four Reach partners received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to link local procurement from smallholder farmers and food-based nutrition interventions. A secondary objective was to facilitate collaboration between the agriculture and nutrition communities. Research was initiated to explore these interactions in a West African country and to develop guidelines for agriculture and nutrition practitioners, Governments and non-governmental organizations. An action plan was formulated to scale up nutrition interventions in the selected countries and increase the access to markets of smallholder farmers. The Reach regional facilitator based in Senegal and hosted by UNICEF furnished critical support.

67. Reach also partnered with the Secretary-General's Millennium Project for Millennium Villages in several African countries. Models will be developed for integrated delivery of nutrition interventions at the community level.

## **E. World Bank**

68. The collaboration of WFP with the World Bank intensified during 2009, and the financial crisis steered the direction of the partnership towards a focus on safety nets. Their joint publication *Rethinking School Feeding: Social Safety Nets, Child Development, and the Education Sector* demonstrated the importance of feeding schoolchildren as a tool for safety nets.

69. Other areas of collaboration included agriculture, climate change and nutrition, all of which feature in the World Bank's global agriculture and food security programme, a multi-donor trust fund to assist in implementing pledges made at the Group of Eight Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, in July. WFP was involved in discussions about the development of mechanisms for this fund, which may provide funding opportunities in 2010. A further area of collaboration was the World Bank's review of the financial architecture of WFP, which yielded the report on food assistance in a changing world that was published in April 2009. In November, the World Bank presented key findings to the WFP Executive Board.

70. Collaboration at the country level continued during 2009, with increasing understanding of the benefits of such strategic partnerships. Both organizations continued to be active in the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia. In Burkina Faso, progress on safety nets included cash vouchers; in Kenya, a strategy for feeding schoolchildren home-grown food.

## **F. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

71. WFP continued to engage with UNAIDS in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and mitigation activities, exploring new ways of supporting patients receiving

antiretroviral therapy. These ways included food by prescription, specially formulated ready-to-use food products, nutritional assistance in paediatric HIV disease management and social safety net mechanisms for people living with HIV and AIDS affected households.

72. As a UNAIDS co-sponsor, WFP contributed to the formulation of the UNAIDS outcome framework for 2009-2011. According to this framework, the HIV/AIDS interventions of WFP will focus on (a) nutritional support in HIV treatment and care programmes; (b) nutritional support in tuberculosis programmes; and (c) social safety nets for people affected by HIV, including orphans and other vulnerable children.

## **G. Non-governmental organizations**

73. In 2008, WFP continued to partner with 230 international and 2,607 national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 69 countries; these partners included community-based organizations. NGO partners distributed 1.9 million metric tons of food, almost 50 per cent of the WFP total.

74. New areas of collaboration between WFP and NGOs reflected a shift from food aid towards food assistance. Oxfam Great Britain implemented a voucher scheme in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; World Vision and Emmanuel International supported pilot project involving cash and food transfers for livelihood protection in Malawi; Mercy Corps managed a cash for work project in rural Nepal; and national NGOs in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Zambia were involved in various activities involving cash and voucher schemes.

75. The partnership of WFP with NGOs goes well beyond the operational level, extending to strategic and policy discussions. The 15th WFP-NGO annual consultation held in Rome on 14 and 15 October 2009, was attended by 19 NGO partners, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and an NGO umbrella organization.

## **H. Common humanitarian air services**

76. WFP continued to provide common humanitarian air services on behalf of the international community through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, carrying 269,703 passengers and 8,947 metric tons of relief goods to remote and insecure areas in 2009. These flights supported responses to sudden-onset emergencies and ongoing relief efforts at the request of United Nations country teams and humanitarian coordinators. The Flight Safety Foundation presented the Aviation Safety Unit of WFP with the 2009 President's Citation Award for bringing state-of-the-art safety practices to humanitarian air operations.

77. A note from the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit issued in 2009 recommended reaffirming the mandate of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, finding sustainable funding mechanisms and upgrading the United Nations aviation standards that regulate the use of chartered aircraft. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee also reiterated the need to address issues of mandate and sustained funding mechanisms; a group of organizations will prepare a proposal for the next meeting of its Working Group in 2010.

## **I. Enhancing security**

78. Insecurity and targeted threats against United Nations and partner staff continued to pose significant challenges to operations, particularly in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. In 2009, there were 500 significant security incidents involving WFP staff or assets. These included a suicide attack on the WFP country office in Islamabad in October that killed five WFP staff members and seriously injured four others. While the implementation of security measures had mitigated a greater loss of life and physical damage to the office, the incident signalled a new trend in targeted terrorist attacks against United Nations staff. This was followed by an incident in which militants murdered five United Nations staff members in Kabul.

79. Immediately following the attack in Islamabad, WFP and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security launched an independent review of the circumstances of the attack in order to address issues related to security risk management. These issues included acceptable risk, the programme assessment process, mitigation measures and enhancement of safety and security for WFP and its partners, including national staff. The review will determine what adjustments in security are necessary to facilitate United Nations operations in insecure environments.

## **J. Gender mainstreaming**

80. The year 2009 was an important one for gender mainstreaming in WFP, with a new gender policy and corporate action plan presented to the Executive Board. The new policy is in line with the United Nations system-wide policy on gender mainstreaming, focusing on priority areas, including capacity-building, accountability and partnerships. In line with its new gender policy, WFP will continue to strengthen partnerships at all levels, including working with other agencies to address gender issues and promote knowledge-sharing.

81. WFP continued to play an active role in the IASC Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (“UN Action”) and other United Nations task forces. Contributions to inter-agency discussions on gender issues focused on eliminating gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

## **K. Institutional governance**

82. WFP coordinated the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, which took place in New York on 23 and 26 January 2009. The main topics included population growth and rapid urbanization, links between unstable food prices and food and nutrition security and harmonization among the United Nations funds and programmes.

83. Addressing the challenges arising from the phenomenon of more people worldwide living in urban areas than rural ones featured prominently in the discussions. Participants voiced their support for United Nations agencies increasing their activities in urban areas, but cautioned against neglecting rural areas. Participants also stressed the importance of transferring cost savings realized

through the harmonization of business practices at the country level back to the countries concerned. In addition, the meeting recommended that the United Nations enhance its focus on national capacity development, as articulated in the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review 2007.

84. A delegation of members from the Executive Boards of WFP, UNDP/UNFPA and UNICEF visited Cambodia from 5 to 12 March 2009. The visit, coordinated by WFP, enabled Board members to gain insight into the contributions that the United Nations system is making in that country.

## Annex

### Resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council identifying the World Food Programme as a follow-up agency

Table 1

#### General Assembly resolutions from the sixty-third session that identify the World Food Programme as a follow-up agency

<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Action by the World Food Programme</i>
63/12	Ongoing	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System	WFP continues to cooperate with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as part of the joint activities implemented under the “Development Project — Latin America and Caribbean Region Capacity-Building Project 104110” (WFP/EB.A/2005/9-A/1)  This resulted in the following studies: “Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean” (October 2009) and “The Cost of Hunger: Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru” (preliminary version October 2009)
63/187	Ongoing	The right to food	WFP continues to support the right to food and government efforts to adopt a right-to-food approach. WFP targets beneficiaries on the basis of need: its limited resources are directed to the most vulnerable individuals and groups. WFP programming principles are similar in effect to those in a rights-based approach, as outlined in the “WFP Strategic Plan (2008-2011)” (WFP/EB.A/2008/5-A/1.Rev.1)
63/190	Ongoing	Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	WFP provides accounts of its achievements to the Resident Coordinator for reporting to the Secretary-General
63/235	Ongoing	Agriculture development and food security	WFP annual report for 2009 to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
63/311	Ongoing	System-wide coherence	WFP annual report for 2009 to the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council

Table 2

#### Economic and Social Council resolutions for 2008 that mention the World Food Programme as a follow-up agency

<i>Resolution number</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Action by the World Food Programme</i>
E/2008/10	Ongoing	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti	WFP provides accounts of its achievements to the Resident Coordinator for reporting to the Secretary-General